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PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Colleen Hart, U.S. EPA
FROM: Kerry Reyes, FIT KR
DATE: October 9, 1991
SUBJECT: Gary Development Co., Inc., Landfill Site, Gary, Indiana
IND077005916/F05-9104-064/FIN0085PA

An off-site reconnaissance inspection of the Gary Development Co., Inc., Landfill site was conducted by Ecology and Environment, Inc., Field Investigation Team on June 12, 1991. The site is located at 479 Cline Avenue in Gary, Indiana. The site is an active sanitary landfill that was constructed in an abandoned, water-filled sand quarry located adjacent to the Grand Calumet River in northeastern Indiana. The current operator of the site, Lavrence H. Hagen, Vice President of Gary Development Co., Inc. (GDC), obtained a sanitary landfill construction permit before the building of the landfill. Construction of required systems, barriers, and wells was completed in September 1974. Soon after the permit was issued, the state of Indiana began to question the adequacy of the systems. The liquid wastes from the leachate collection system were discharged into the Grand Calumet River for a number of years without a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit. This was stopped in 1983 as a result of a consent decree settlement with the state. Since this time, the liquid leachate has been mixed with lime and fly ash to form a rock-like cover material. GDC petitioned and received approval from the Indiana State Board of Health to receive industrial wastes, some of which contained varying amounts of hazardous compounds.

The current leachate collection system maintains the depressed water table on-site, which makes the probability of contaminants migrating from the site to groundwater remote. Without the leachate

collection system, however, there is a potential for groundwater to become contaminated, because the precipitation in the area is heavy, the subsurface is sandy, and the water table is high. There are approximately 1,270 persons that use residential wells within a 4-mile radius of the site; approximately 124 of these persons live within a 3-mile radius of the site. There are no drinking water wells within a 2-mile radius of the site.

There is a potential for surface water contamination of the Grand Calumet River through a ditch that flows along the west side of the site and into the river. The south side of the site also borders the river, and there is a potential for leachate and surface water runoff to enter the river. The Grand Calumet River is a fishery, and there are many wetlands located along the river. The nearest surface water intake is located 10 miles downstream of the site in Lake Michigan.

The nearest residence is located 1/4 mile from the site, and the site is not easily accessible because it lies within an industrial area.

A release to air is not suspected because a hard layer of fly ash and sludge covers the landfill.

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